

REMARKS

Claim 1 has been amended. Claims 1-11 are pending.

Double Patenting

The double patenting rejection is overcome by the attached terminal disclaimer.

Rejections of claims 1-4 and 6-11 under 35 USC 103

Independent claim 1 recites an outlet pipe provided at a side of the colloidal silver maker to feed the colloidal silver-containing wash water from the colloidal silver maker to the detergent feeder, the outlet pipe integrally formed with the colloidal silver maker and connecting the colloidal silver maker to the detergent feeder into a single structure.

The Examiner admits that KR '368 does not teach these features of claim 1, but instead states that it would have been obvious to rearrange the supply the silver maker 30 and detergent feeder 23 to be "in series." However, these features of claim 1 go beyond merely being "in series." As discussed above, claim 1 recites a single structure and integral formation. However, in KR '368, the detergent feeder 23 is not integral with the storage tank 31.

Advantages of the claimed integral formation and single structure are discussed in paragraphs 8 and 9 of the present specification. When the colloidal silver maker and the detergent feeder are separately manufactured, this increases the assembling time and assembling costs. This is because assembling work to mount the colloidal silver maker to the washing machine is required, in addition to assembling work to mount the detergent feeder to the washing machine. Another disadvantage is that wash water may leak through a junction and between the colloidal silver maker and the detergent feeder due to water pressure or repeated use.

Thus, the invention reduces costs and time of assembling. Also, wash water may be evenly mixed with colloidal silver and the detergent and supplied to the water tub, thereby enhancing washing (detergent) as well as sterilization (colloidal silver) effects.

Thus, it is clear that the claimed single structure in which the outlet pipe is integrally formed with the colloidal silver maker achieves numerous advantages over a washing machine such as that of KR '368, in which the colloidal silver maker and the detergent feeder are separately manufactured.

Furthermore, the Examiner relies upon *In re Japikse*, 86 USPQ 70 (CCPA 1950), as standing for the proposition that rearranging parts of an invention involves only routine skill in the art.

However, it is noted that a "rearrangement" of the parts of KR '368 would not have realized the invention of claim 1. If the detergent feeder 23 were merely rearranged to be "in series" as purported by the Examiner, this still would not have achieved a structure in which the detergent feeder 23 and the storage tank 31 were integral. Instead, these elements would still be separate. Thus, the invention of claim 1 goes beyond a mere rearrangement.

It is further noted that "The mere fact that a worker in the art could rearrange the parts of the reference device to meet the terms of the claims on appeal is not by itself sufficient to support a finding of obviousness. The prior art must provide a motivation or reason for the worker in the art, without the benefit of appellant's specification, to make the necessary changes in the reference device." *Ex parte Chicago Rawhide Mfg. Co.*, 223 USPQ 351, 353 (Bd. Pat. App. & Inter. 1984). Cited in M.P.E.P. 2144.04(c).

The Examiner has not shown where the prior art provides a motivation to make the changes. While advantages of the claimed structure are taught in the present specification, such advantages are not taught in the cited art.

Dependent claim 2 recites a connecting part provided between the colloidal silver maker and the detergent feeder to integrally connect the colloidal silver maker to the detergent feeder, the connecting part integrating the colloidal silver maker with the detergent feeder into the single structure, in cooperation with the outlet pipe.

Again, the Examiner relies upon *Japiske* as allegedly teaching a rearrangement of parts. However, there is no corresponding part in KR '368 to be rearranged. KR '368 does not teach the output pipe integrally connecting the colloidal silver maker to the detergent feeder (as admitted by the Examiner), thus, this reference would not include a connecting part. Therefore, there is no connecting part to be rearranged.

Claims 3 through 4 and 6 are patentable over KR '368 at least due to their dependence from independent claim 1.

Independent claim 7 is patentable over KR '368 at least for similar reasons as discussed with respect to claim 1. Claims 8-11 are patentable over KR '368 at least due to their dependence from independent claim 1.

Rejection of claim 5 under 35 USC 103

The Examiner relies upon *Mamiya* as teaching the spacing projection of claim 5. However, this reference does not teach in the claimed integral outlet pipe and colloidal silver maker, and therefore does not overcome the deficiencies in KR '368.

Accordingly, withdrawal of the rejections is requested.

There being no further outstanding objections or rejections, it is submitted that the application is in condition for allowance. An early action to that effect is courteously solicited.

Finally, if there are any formal matters remaining after this response, the Examiner is requested to telephone the undersigned to attend to these matters.

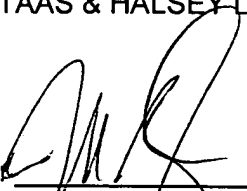
If there are any additional fees associated with filing of this Amendment, please charge the same to our Deposit Account No. 19-3935.

Respectfully submitted,

STAAS & HALSEY LLP

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By


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